

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 2613

Laboratory Fee

Case. **Unknown Subject**  
**Mr. Sloane - Victim**

Number **7-331-1**

Specimens **One original typewritten extortion letter beginning, "Mr. Sloan General Motors Just a request of a lent you over no foreman".**  
**One envelope in which the above letter was mailed to victim, postmarked Detroit, Mich 2, Nov 27, 1934, 100 PM.**

Examination requested by **New York Division Office.**

Date received: **December 1', 1934.**

Examination requested: **Typewriting and Fingerprint.**

Result of examination

Examination by: **Conrad Engert. ✓**

*To the Hon. J. Edgar Hoover  
To the Hon. J. C. Connelley and others  
one on outside of envelope  
The price for the name of  
the subject.  
best to place a paper*

*J. Edgar Hoover  
12/21/34*

1979

47

Number: 0-00000

... ..

Franchising by \_\_\_\_\_.

point blank paper  
no record on file

4-10-5

LOCKPORT (N.Y. 10235) - INFO-UNION  
2/25/36

## PAIR MENACES ALFRED SLOAN

Lockport Couple Facing  
Charge of Plotting  
Factory Blast

Buffalo — A middle aged Lockport couple faced arraignment today on charges of extortion and indirectly threatening the life of Alfred P. Sloan Jr., president of General Motors Corporation.

The couple, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Ehmke, was arrested by agents of the Buffalo office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mrs. Ehmke, the agents said, admitted writing a letter to F. M. Hardiman, general manager of the Harrison Radiator division of the General Motors Corporation at Lockport, threatening to blow up the plant unless the 2,000 employees were granted salary increases, shorter hours and better working conditions.

Ehmke, who has been employed as a tool maker at the plant for the past 12 years, mailed the letter, the agents said.

In the letter Mrs. Ehmke said "your big chief will soon start to fear for his life." She told the agents she referred to Sloan as the "big chief."

Mrs. Ehmke admitted also that she sent numerous mimeographed spiritualistic letters to various persons in Lockport. She claimed that she wrote the letter to Hardiman when she was in a trance and under the influence of spiritualistic guides.

The couple will be charged with violating the Lindbergh Law when arraigned before a United States commissioner.

Handwritten notes and signatures in the right margin, including a large signature that appears to be "Smith" and other illegible markings.

9-331-A

# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. 9-16

REPORT MADE AT: <b>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>3/18/35</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>3/18/35</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>R. D. GRHAM</b>
TITLE: <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS ALFRED P. HIGAN - VIOTTEL</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <b>EXTORTION</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Fingerprints of Alfred P. Higan, Detroit, not identified with those found on extortion letter. No leads of value can be found. Special Agent in Charge advises closing case, subject to being reopened in event further information obtained.

Report of Special Agent R. D. Grham, Detroit, Michigan, 1/19/35; Bureau letter dated 1/24/35.

## DETAILS:

Reference letter contains the information that the latent fingerprints previously developed on the extortion note and on the letter in this case are of identical character. A letter through the mail, dated the date of the identification unit, dated 3/18/35, advised that the latent fingerprints on this letter are of identical character with those on the letter in this case.

The above information was received from the Detroit office on 3/18/35. The Detroit office is continuing its investigation of this case and will report the results of its investigation to the Bureau as soon as they are available.

This case was handled with Special Agent in Charge, Detroit, who stated that in view of the existing circumstances it

MAR 20 A.M.

MAR 20 1935

- 2 -

would be advisable to close the case, subject to being reopened if the event  
any further information was obtained.

C I O - E D

DET: MTH  
9-331

March 18, 1935.

N  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

RE: LEMMON SUBJECTS;  
ALFRED P. SLOAN - Victim  
KIDNAPING.

Dear Sir:

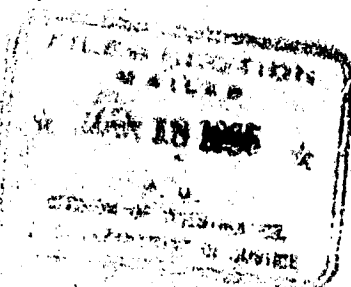
The Division file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Division at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

RECORDED



9-331-10	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 19 1935 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
	FILE

✓ 9157

# DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

N.Y. FILE NO.

**9-54**

IN

REPORT MADE AT

DATE WHEN MADE

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE

REPORT MADE BY

**NEW YORK CITY**

**1/31/38**

**1/24-25/38**

**E. J. O'NEILL**

TITLE

**UNKNOWN SUBJECTS**

**ALFRED P. SLOAN - VICTIM**

CHARACTER OF CASE

**EXTORTION**

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

No correspondence between Alfred E. Hahner and Alfred P. Sloan found in files of General Motors Corp., New York City. Letters signed by Hahner in file were written on office stationery prior to 1927 and initialed by a stenographer. Reference found in file to letter received by Mr. Sloan from Frank G. Cox interceding for position in corporation for Mr. Hahner at request of Hahner's father.

- 100 -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent A. J. [Name] Detroit, Michigan, 1/19/38.

DETAILS:

Mr. Power, Legal Department, General Motors Corporation, Broadway and 57th Street, New York City, was interviewed on 1/24/38. Mr. Power advised that there would have been a search made of the files in the New York office of the General Motors Corporation for copies of correspondence between Mr. Alfred E. Hahner and Mr. Sloan. This search

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:

*[Signature]*

**9-331-9**

**FEB 1 1938**

RECEIVED

Division  
1 Detroit  
2 New York



resulted in the locating of two small files, one of which pertained to a letter written by Mr. Frank C. Gee, Otis and Company, Cleveland, Ohio, on October 31, 1933 and addressed to Mr. Sloan. The letter advised Mr. Sloan that the writer, Mr. Gee, had received a letter from Mrs. Henry C. Hebner, mother of Alfred K. Hebner, requesting that Mr. Gee use his influence with Mr. Sloan to have the latter reinstate Mr. Hebner in some position with the General Motors Corporation. Mr. Gee's letter enclosed the letter which he received from Mrs. Hebner. A letter signed by Mr. Sloan and addressed to Mr. Gee was also in the file. This letter advised Mr. Gee that Alfred K. Hebner, had had some difficulty while in the employment of the General Motors Corporation and there was no possibility of his being reinstated. Mr. Sloan's letter also enclosed the letter written by Mrs. Hebner to Mr. Gee.

The second file located in the New York office of the General Motors Corporation contained business letters addressed by Mr. Hebner to various business concerns. These letters were written on office stationery prior to 1927 and were initialed apparently by the stenographer who had typed the same. No correspondence between Mr. Hebner and Mr. Sloan was included in these files. Due to the fact that the only letters in the file signed by Mr. Hebner were apparently written on office typewriters and were written prior to 1927, no effort was made by agent to obtain samples.

Should the Detroit office desire any further information concerning these letters, Mr. Power stated that he will be glad to accommodate in any way possible.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -



January 24, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of January 19, 1935  
in connection with the case entitled Unknown Subjects; Alfred P.  
Sloan - Victim, Extortion.

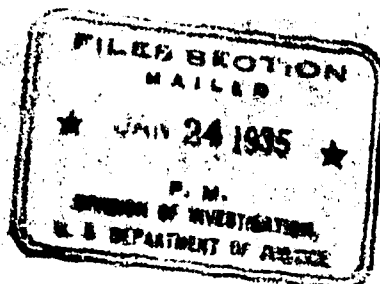
The fingerprints of Alfred P. Hobner submitted with  
your letter as a possible suspect in connection with this case  
were compared with the latent fingerprints previously developed  
in this case but no identification was effected.

A search through the main fingerprint files of the  
Identification Unit fails to disclose any previous criminal record  
on this individual.

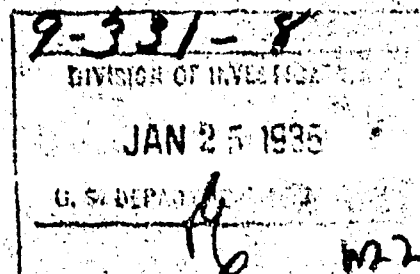
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

1 copy



RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED



# UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

REPORT MADE AT: <b>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</b>	DATE WHEN MADE: <b>1/19/36</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: <b>1/3, 9, 12/36</b>	REPORT MADE BY: <b>R. B. GRAHAM</b>
TITLE: <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECTS ALFRED P. SLOAN - VICTIM</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE: <b>EXTORTION</b>

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Correspondence between A. P. Mahner and Alfred P. Sloan in files of New York City office of General Motors Corporation. Mahner interviewed and fingerprinted and handwriting specimen obtained. Denies owning typewriter. Fingerprints being forwarded to Technical Laboratory for purposes of comparison.

## REFERENCE:

Letter from New York City office, December 15, 1934.  
Division letter, December 20, 1934.  
Division letter, dated December 22, 1934.

## DETAILS:

Mr. M. C. Hale, Jr. Industrial Relations, General Motors Corporation, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed and informed that copies of all of the correspondence between Alfred P. Mahner and Alfred P. Sloan is contained in the files of the General Motors Corporation in New York City. Mr. Hale stated that he had talked to Mr. Sloan's assistant, Mr. Anderson, at telephone concerning this case but was unable to think of anyone who might have written such a letter to Mr. Sloan. Mr. Hale was unable to give any further assistance.

After several unsuccessful attempts Mr. E. J. Mahner was interviewed at his residence, 5703 Holliston Road, Detroit, Michigan. He stated that he was employed as Mr. Sloan's assistant from 1922 to the middle of 1927, when he was discharged, due to a disagreement with Mr. Sloan. He stated he was employed at the present time.

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

DIVISION  
NEW YORK  
DETROIT  
REMOVED

JAN 21 1936 AM

JAN 21 1936  
RECEIVED

A description of Mr. Hebner, as obtained by personal observation, is as follows:

Age	Alfred E. Hebner
Height	5920 Nottingham Road, Detroit, Michigan
Weight	47 years, born Hulterton, New York
Build	5' 7 1/2 inches
Hair	145 pounds
Complexion	Stocky
Eyes	Grayish brown, wavy
Marital Status	Single
Nationality	American
Relatives	Father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Hebner, 5920 Nottingham Road, Detroit
	Cousin, Clark H. Hebner, lawyer, 1 Park Avenue, New York, New York
	Irene Bartels, first ex-wife, 70 Zimere Road, Mount Vernon, New York

b6  
b7C

[redacted] children by  
this wife and living with her.

On January 12, Mr. Hebner called at the Detroit office for the purpose of having his fingerprints taken. They are being forwarded to the technical laboratory of the Division with the request that they be compared with latent fingerprints found on the extortion note and envelope.

While at Mr. Hebner's residence, the writer did not observe a typewriter, and Mr. Hebner stated that he does not own one.

A handwriting specimen was also secured from Mr. Hebner and this is being retained in the files of the Detroit office for possible future use.

**NEW YORK CITY LEADS:** The New York City Office at 100 Park City will conduct an investigation of the correspondence between Mr. Hebner and Mr. Glavin, New York City, and forward the results to the technical laboratory of the Division for comparison with the typewriter extortion letter received in this case.

The Detroit office at 100 Park City, Michigan, will conduct an investigation of the correspondence between Mr. Hebner and Mr. Glavin, New York City, and forward the results to the technical laboratory of the Division for comparison with the typewriter extortion letter received in this case.

As a special assignment, Mr. Glavin was made to conduct this report until the present time.

WLL:MMO  
9-331

January 18, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
ALFRED SLOAN - Victim;  
Extortion.

Dear Sir:

The Division file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

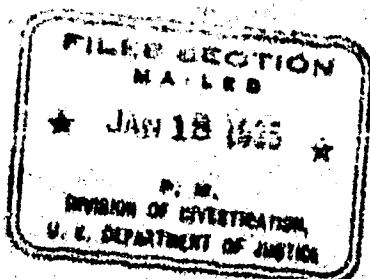
This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Division at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

RECORDED

9-331-6	
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION	
JAN 19 1935 A.M.	
FBI	



W2

January 19, 1935

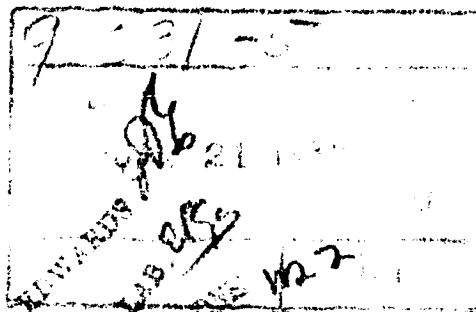
Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
ALFRED P. SLOAN - VICTIM  
Extortion

Inclosed please find the fingerprints of Alfred E. Hebner, a suspect in this case.

Very truly yours,

Incl.

**JAN 22 1935**



argent





December 31, 1934.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to an extortion letter together with the accompanying envelope postmarked Detroit, Michigan, November 28, 1934, 3:50 P.M. and addressed to Mr. Elmore, President, General Motors, General Motors Building.

There are being transmitted herewith photographic copies of this extortion letter and accompanying envelope.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure #470343.

1 copy

RECORDED

9-331-4

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

JAN 13 1935

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

RECEIVED  
MAIL ROOM  
★ DEC 31 1934 ★

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE



December 28, 1934

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

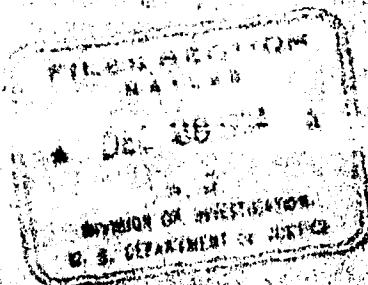
Reference is made to the letter of December 13, 1934, from the New York Division Office transmitting an extortion letter and accompanying envelope addressed to Mr. P. Gleane at Detroit, Michigan.

Two latent fingerprints were developed on the extortion letter. On the outside of the envelope postmarked "Detroit, Mich. 2, Nov. 27, 1934, 3:30 PM" one latent fingerprint was developed. None of these latent fingerprints is of sufficient detail to permit classification for a search in the single fingerprint file but they may prove of value for comparison purposes with the fingerprints of persons known to have handled the letter and envelope together with the fingerprints of any suspects that your office may subsequently name.

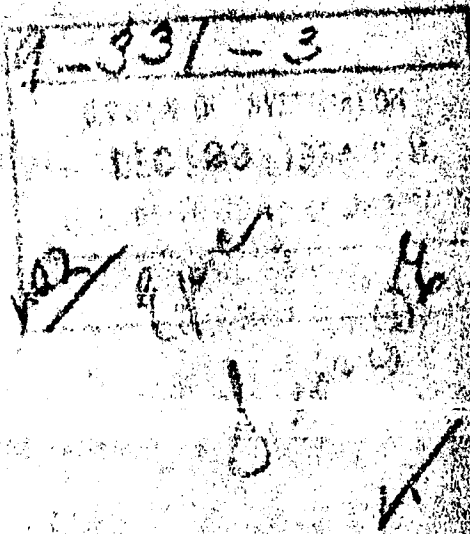
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

1 copy



RECORDED



December 21, 1934

9-331-2

Special Agent in Charge,  
New York, New York.

RECORDED

Re: Unknown Subjects  
Mr. Sloane - Victim

Dear Sir:

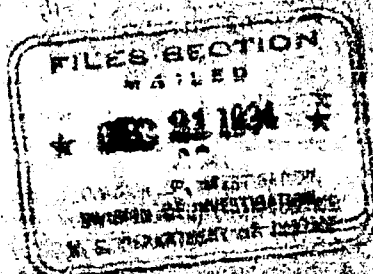
There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Division December 17, 1934.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure: #506240

1 copy



SECRET

DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# 2813

Laboratory Report

December 20, 1934

Case Unknown Subject  
Mr. Sloane - Victim

Number 9-331-1

Specimens One original typewritten extortion letter beginning, "Mr. Sloan  
General Motors Just a request of a debt you owed me for\*\*\*".  
One envelope in which the above letter was mailed to victim, post-  
marked Detroit, Mich. 2, Nov. 27, 1934, 3:30 PM.

Examination requested by  
New York Division Office

Date received:  
December 17, 1934

Examination requested: Typewriting and Fingerprint

Result of examination:

Examination by:

JWC  
Conrad

The examiner is unable to identify the typewriter used in writing the instant extortion letter. The type style is that known as Elite Multigraph, spaced twelve letters to the inch; the present specimen, however, does not agree with any of the standard specimens of this style of type on file in the Laboratory.

The paper on which the letter is written measures 5 (torn) by 6.42 by .0034 inches, weighs 1.5578 grams, has a linen finish, and bears no watermark. It has been torn from a larger sheet to its present size. The envelope measures 5.39 by 3.41 by .0036 inches, weighs 2.0410 grams, has a linen finish, and bears no watermark.

A report on the fingerprints will be submitted separately.

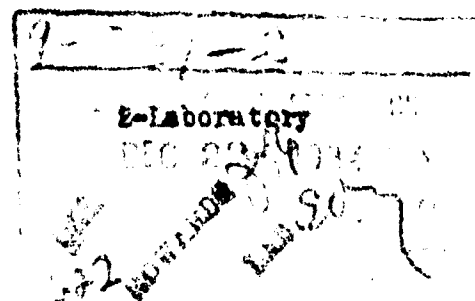
THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY FOR ANY SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR OFFICE DESIRE THIS ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAY DEVELOP THE DIVISION SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT TRANSMITTAL.

3-Director

2-New York

RECORDED

DEC 28 1934



Room 1403,  
370 Lexington Avenue,  
New York City

December 25, 1934

RECEIVED  
F-8

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS,  
MR. BLOOM - VICTIM  
RETOUR

Dear Sir:

Referring to letter addressed to the Division  
under date of December 15, 1934, in the above captioned case, copy  
of which was furnished the Detroit office; further, in connection  
therewith, there will be found attached hereto per copy of the  
Laboratory report, dated December 21, 1934, which was received at  
the New York Office.

Very truly yours,

J. E. PAT.  
Special Agent in Charge.

W.L.C. (3)

cc-Division

DEC 27 1934

712.100

9-331 — /

December 20, 1934.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter dated December 13, 1934 from the New York City office, a copy of which was furnished your office, in connection with an extortion letter addressed to Mr. Alfred Sileas, President of the General Motors Corporation.

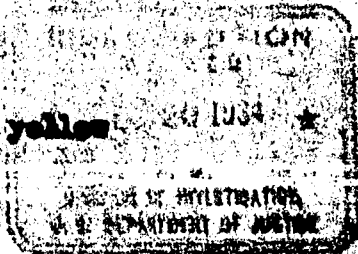
Inasmuch as one Alfred K. Mohner is indicated as a possible suspect in this case, it is suggested that the correspondence between Mohner and Mr. Sileas be examined for consideration in forwarding it to the Technical Laboratory of the Division for comparison with the typewritten extortion letter received in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

1 yellow

DEC 22 1934



also for 802

122

# Division of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice  
Room 1403,  
370 Lexington Avenue,  
New York City

HCL:MM

December 13, 1934

REGISTERED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED.

Director,  
Division of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th Street, N. W.,  
Washington, D. C.

## Attention of Division Laboratory

Dear Sir:

On December 7, 1934, a telephone call was received from Mr. W. F. Andersen, assistant to Mr. Sloane, president of General Motors Company, 1775 Broadway, New York City, to the effect that an extortion letter had been received at the New York office of General Motors Company, from the General Motors Detroit office, addressed to Mr. Sloane at Detroit, Michigan, demanding that he place \$2,000 in the mail box on the twenty mile road, Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Andersen was interviewed by Special Agent H. C. Leslie. He advised that the anonymous letter had been addressed to Mr. Sloane, Detroit, Michigan and was forwarded to their office at New York, as Mr. Sloane was in New York when the letter was received at Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Andersen produced the letter which was typewritten. The envelope bears postmark Detroit, Michigan, Sta. 2, dated Nov. 27, 1934, 3:30 P. M., and reads as follows:

"Mr. Sloane: General Motors

Just a request of a debt you owed me for quite a while. The sum of \$2000 which I lost to you in one of your crooked deals I wouldn't be able to collect if I identified myself and for your own good I'll keep my identity concealed. You will pay if you wish to enjoy the fruits of your present success

Follow Directions?

Put money in small bills in envelope  
put envelope in vacant mail box on 20 mile road  
1st box on right hand side of road just off

DEC 21 1934

12/20/34

RECORDED & INDEXED	DEC 14 1934
DEC 21 1934	



Director - Division Laboratory

December 13, 1934

"Rochester road on 20 mile road between 6-7  
o'clock Dec. 1  
Leave police out of this?  
I mean business  
Do not fail this letter or on Dec. 2 the papers  
will be very busy writing about a Sloan of the  
past.

One of your suckers

If this letter becomes public you'll never  
be able to pay anymore debt's. "

Mr. Andersen advised that he opened the letter and after reading same, turned it over to Richard J. Meehan, Pinkerton detective, who is employed in the general office of the General Motors Company, New York City; that after some thought it was decided that the letter was possibly from some crank and they decided not to do anything about it. Later, however, they thought it best to turn the letter over to the Department of Justice for investigation. Mr. Andersen stated that Mr. Sloane has not been apprised of the receipt of this letter and he prefers, that in the event it is necessary for the Detroit, Michigan Division office to make contact at the General Motors office at Detroit, Michigan, that they interview Mr. M. C. Hale of Industrial Relations.

Mr. Andersen also advised that he has no suspicions of anyone who might have sent the above referred to letter, but that Mr. Sloane had in his employ for about ten years, a man named Alfred K. Hebner, who was discharged about four years ago and since that time Hebner has communicated with Mr. Sloane endeavoring to get back his position, but Mr. Sloane has ignored his pleas. Mr. Andersen advised that Hebner has been out of employment for some time and at present is living somewhere in Detroit, Michigan.

Mr. Andersen was contacted on December 12, 1934 and he advised that there has been no further anonymous communications received in connection with the above matter.

The original letter is being forwarded to the Division Laboratory for examination with the request that the Division office at Detroit, Michigan be advised as to the results of same.

Director - Division Laboratory

December 13, 1934

Photostatic copies of this letter are being forwarded to the Division at Washington and to the Detroit, Michigan Division office.

As there is no investigation to be conducted in New York City, no case will be opened in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours,

  
F. X. FAY,  
Special Agent in Charge

ENCLOS. 1 - Laboratory  
2- Division  
2- Detroit

cc: Detroit



Mr. Sloan Pres. Gen. Motors  
General Motors Bldg.



Mr. Sloan: General Motors

Just a request of a debt you owed me for quite a while. The sum of \$2000 which I lent to you in one of your wrecked deals I couldn't be able to collect if I identified myself and for your own good I'll keep my identity concealed. You will pay if you wish to enjoy the fruits of your present success

Follow Directions?

Put money in small bills in envelope put envelope in secret mail box on 20 mile road 1st box on right hand side of road just off Rochester road on 20 mile road between 6-7 o'clock too, I

Leave police out of this!

I mean business

Do not fail this letter or on the 2 the papers will be very busy writing about a Sloan of the past.

One of your suckers

If this letter become public you'll never be able to pay square debt's.